

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01
AID-05 IGA-02 IO-13 /081 W
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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1102
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6690
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 0163

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS MPOL NATO PO
SUBJ: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION; INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH
ASYG MUMFORD, JANUARY 12

REF: (A) USNATO 0067 (DTG 071400Z JAN 77), (B) 76 STATE
310763 (DTG 240140Z DEC 76) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL
AND TURKEY WILL MEET DURING WEEK OF JANUARY 31. DURING
RUMP SESSION CALLED BY CHAIRMAN, ASYG MUMFORD, JANUARY 12, US,
FRG, PORTUGUESE AND SHAPE REPS DISCUSSED NEED FOR A TRULY MULTI-
LATERAL PROGRAM WITH US AND FRG LEADERSHIP. MUMFORD AND SHAPE REP
STRESSED NEED FOR SWIFT AND DECISIVE ACTION BY US AND FEDERAL
REPUBLIC IN ORDER TO GIVE CONTENT TO SACEUR'S FORTHCOMING
LISBON TRIP, AND IN ORDER TO CASH IN ON OPPORTUNITY FOR
FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF PORTUGUESE TIES TO NATO. END
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SUMMARY.

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL (DEFENSE PLANNING AND
POLICY) MUMFORD CALLED A SHORT-NOTICE, INFORMAL MEETING
OF THE US, FRG, PORTUGUESE AND SHAPE REPS ON THE AD HOC
GROUP ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AND TURKEY
JANUARY 12. HE NOTED THAT PORTUGAL HAD RELEASED ITS
LIST OF EQUIPMENT NEEDS FOR THE ARMY BRIGADE TO THE
US AND FRG JANUARY 6 (REF A), AND THAT THE INTERNA-
TIONAL STAFF WOULD SHORTLY CIRCULATE THIS LIST,

TOGETHER WITH A LIST FOR THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE (WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED) IN THE NEAR FUTURE. NOTING THAT A MEETING OF THE AD HOC GROUP MIGHT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE UNLESS THERE WERE SOME PROGRESS FOR ALLIES TO REPORT, HE ASKED THE US AND FRG REPS TO BRING HIM UP TO SPEED ON ACTIVITIES IN THEIR BILATERAL CHANNEL, AND ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE SUITABLE IN HIS NOTE COVERING THE PORTUGUESE EQUIPMENT LISTS TO SAY THAT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WERE IN PROGRESS ON CERTAIN ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT, E.G., TANKS, APCS, FOR THE PORTUGUESE ARMY BRIGADE.

2. DRAWING ON REF B (WHICH INSTRUCTS MISSION TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION PENDING WASHINGTON GUIDANCE), THE US REP (BADER) NOTED THAT INDEED THERE WAS ACTIVITY GOING ON IN WASHINGTON, BUT THAT THE HAD NO DETAILS. SINCE THE US WISHES TO MAXIMIZE ALLIED PARTICIPATION IN PORTUGUESE ASSISTANCE, BADER ADDED, THE US WOULD PREFER THAT ANY CHAIRMAN'S NOTE OMIT REFERENCE TO BILATERAL ACTIVITY ON MAJOR ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT MUMFORD'S COVERING NOTE SIMPLY SERVE AS A VEHICLE FOR CIRCULATING THE LIST, CALL FOR ITS URGENT STUDY IN CAPITALS, AND ASK DELEGATIONS TO BE ABLE TO SPECIFY, AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE AD HOC GROUP, THOSE AREAS IN WHICH NATIONS FELT THEY COULD BE OF HELP. THE ACTING FRG REP (MARKUS) AGREED THAT, IN ORDER TO
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MAXIMIZE ALLIANCE-WIDE PARTICIPATION, PREJUDGMENTS ON PROVISION OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE AVOIDED. MUMFORD RELUCTANTLY AGREED.

4. THE SHAPE REP (BGEN SCHWEITZER) URGED THE US AND FRG REPS TO MAKE THE NEED FOR SWIFT AND DECISIVE ACTION KNOWN IN THEIR CAPITALS, NOTING THAT SACEUR WILL VISIT LISBON, AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT EANES, JANUARY 18-20. HE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE FOR BONN AND WASHINGTON TO INDICATE DETAILS OF THEIR PLANNING, AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE, PRIOR TO THAT VISIT.

5. MUMFORD SAID HE WAS RELUCTANT TO SCHEDULE AN EARLY MEETING OF THE AD HOC GROUP UNTIL THE ALLIES HAD HAD TIME TO REVIEW THE PORTUGUESE LIST AND, HOPEFULLY, THE US AND FRG HAD DECIDED ON THE DETAILS OF THEIR OWN PROGRAMS. BADER SAID THAT IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER WASHINGTON WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO ANNOUNCE THE DETAILS OF ITS PROPOSED PROGRAM UNTIL

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AFTER SOME OTHER ALLIES HAD INDICATED THEIR WILLING-
NESS TO HELP. MUMFORD SAID THAT HE COULD APPRECIATE
THE US DESIRE TO AVOID GIVING THE ALLIES THE
IMPRESSION THAT THE US WAS GOING TO CARRY THE ENTIRE
LOAD, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE US DECISION WAS, IN HIS
VIEW, THE SINE QUA NON OF GETTING THE OTHER ALLIES TO
PARTICIPATE. THE PORTUGUESE REP (CATARINO) SAID THAT
SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD ALSO HAVE A SALUTARY
AFFECT ON PORTUGUESE DOMESTIC OPINION AND WOULD HELP
THE GOP FOSTER A PRO-NATO ATTITUDE. THE SHAPE REP
ADDED, IN SUPPORT OF MUMFORD AND CATARINO, THAT WE
COULD EXPECT A LONG INTERVAL BEFORE THE ALLIES
RESPONDED IN THE ABSENCE OF A US OR FRG DECISION.
BADER SAID HE APPRECIATED THOSE ARGUMENTS BUT EVEN
IF WASHINGTON WERE IN A POSITION IN THE NEAR FUTURE
TO MAKE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT, IT WOULD STILL HAVE TO
BE QUALIFIED WITH A STATEMENT OF THE NEED TO SEEK CONGRESS-
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IONAL APPROVAL.

6. IN THE COURSE OF THIS MEETING, ASYG MUMFORD ALSO
ANNOUNCED THAT HE PLANS TO SET UP A TASK FORCE WITHIN
THE DEFENSE PLANNING AND POLICY DIVISION, NOT ONLY TO
PERFORM NECESSARY STAFF FUNCTIONS, BUT ALSO TO
ASSIST HIM PERSONALLY AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC
GROUP TO PUT A STRONG ARM ON THE SMALLER ALLIES FOR
ASSISTANCE TO BOTH PORTUGAL AND TURKEY. HE EXPRESSED
THE HOPE THAT ASSISTANCE DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE IN
BONN AND WASHINGTON IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO ENABLE
SACEUR TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL REPORT TO GENERAL EANES

NEXT WEEK (AT LEAST PRIVATELY), AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD CONVENE THE NEXT MEETING OF THE AD HOC GROUP DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 31 AT THE LATEST.

7. SEVERAL HOURS FOLLOWING THE MEETING, PORTUGUESE REP APPROACHED US REP, STATING THAT HIS AMBASSADOR HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO REINFORCE THE POINT CATARINO HAD MADE CONCERNING THE SALUTARY IMPACT WHICH TIMELY ANNOUNCEMENT OF US DECISIONS WOULD HAVE WITHIN PORTUGAL. AMBASSADOR DE FREITAS CRUZ HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US WOULD NOT WANT TO WAIT UNTIL OTHER ALLIES HAD DETERMINED THE LEVEL AND TYPES OF THEIR ASSISTANCE PRIOR TO MAKING ITS OWN PLANS KNOWN, CATARINO SAID. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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